

THE RIO NEWS.

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THE RIO NEWS

PUBLISHED WEEKLY.

A. J. LAMOURÉUX, Editor and Proprietor.

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EDITORIAL AND PUBLICATION OFFICES:—

79, Rua Sete de Setembro.

RIO DE JANEIRO, AUGUST 25th, 1891.

THE news from Chili within the last three or four days indicate that the revolutionists have again taken the offensive and have forced Balmaceda into a very critical position. They effected a landing with 15,000 men a short distance to the north of Valparaiso and at once marched upon Quillota, cutting the railway between Valparaiso and Santiago and at the same time cutting off communication between the various divisions of the dictator's army. This places Balmaceda in a very critical position. Valparaiso is undefended from the rear and the small force in that city will be unable to protect it from capture. A force of some 5,000 men in Coquimbo is also cut off from communication with Santiago where the main portion of Balmaceda's army, 10,000 in number, is stationed. The movement is a bold one and has been carried out with admirable skill and vigor. Whether it means the capture of Valparaiso or an immediate attack on Balmaceda himself, can be for the moment only a matter of conjecture, but it may be presumed from the manner in which the campaign has been opened that the revolutionary leaders propose to bring the struggle to a decisive issue at once. It is to be sincerely hoped that the war may be decided within the next few days, and that it may result in a brilliant success for the revolutionists who best represent the liberal and progressive elements of Chili.

THE delay in the appointment of the bank investigation commission referred to elsewhere in an extract from the *Jornal do Commercio*, has enabled Barão de Lucena's political opponents to score a point against him, for upon motion of Deputy Demetrio Ribeiro the Chamber has appointed a special commission to investigate and report upon the currency question. So experienced a politician as Barão de Lucena should never have been caught in such a manner; and his hesitation in this matter of investigation has created a belief that the government is not altogether determined upon looking into the accounts of these so-called banks—perhaps "bucket shops"—is a more correct term—even by means of a commission formed of Treasury officials, who know nothing of commercial book-keeping, and of the fiscals appointed by the government, who are declared to be suspects by the very fact of the appointment of the commission. Fortunately the cupidity of these so-called banks has brought them under government inspection, for in the heyday of speculation they applied for the appointment of government agents to meet the requirements of the law of July 4th, in order that they might serve as depositaries for the calls made upon the shareholders of the "wild-cat" companies. Now if, as the *Jornal* demands, the government appoints honest, independent and expert men to investigate the accounts of these banks, there cannot be the slightest doubt that the gravest scandals will be brought to light, and perhaps some reputations tarnished. Hence, it is assumed, the hesitation of Barão de Lucena in nominating even his harmless commission. Never was there a time when the Brazilian government was so urgently called upon to exercise the profession of the surgeon and extirpate by knife and cautery the vicious excrescences that have been formed upon the credit of Brazil by a few soulless speculators.

Every bank and company that in the remotest degree enjoys a favor from the Treasury should be submitted to an investigation so thorough and searching that each will emerge from the crucible either pure metal, or the dross of which many are composed. It is evident that the minister of finance will not be permitted to allow his promised investigation to sleep—or, to employ the favorite Brazilian term, to place a stone upon it. His political opponents are active young men, anxious apparently to gain notoriety, but Barão de Lucena had much better throw some of Gen. Ruy Barbosa's children to the wolves than be himself devoured.

THERE can be no disputing the fact that the situation in Brazil has become most critical, and that it can not be supported much longer. Although the country is now marketing a large coffee crop, and although the out-turn of other products is equal to, if not above the average, the rate of exchange is steadily falling and the costs and difficulties of living and transacting business are continually increasing. There has been no war, nor great calamity; the country is in a state of profound peace and not one single obstacle exists to the development of industry and trade. And yet, in spite of all this, the credit of the country abroad has largely decreased and is being now maintained with difficulty, while at home the currency of the country is depreciated nearly fifty per cent, trade is becoming demoralized and public confidence has been seriously shaken. Many of the best enterprises of yesterday have been absorbed in the reckless bubble speculations of to-day, to the serious loss of investors and the discredit of the country. Many of the enterprises of to-day are in the hands of speculators, while most of the avenues leading to the industrial development of the country are controlled by speculators and monopolies. There is not one hopeful feature in the whole situation, outside of the still bounteous production of the soil. There has been a peaceful change of government, which has created but little more disturbance than an ordinary change of ministry, but it has left everything in so topsy-turvy and unsettled a condition that the new men seem to be utterly lost in the confusion. In every branch of the public service, incapacity and indifference reign supreme. We have a bank problem which no one is able to solve, a currency problem which no one can understand, a joint stock company problem whose destructive results no one foresees, a transportation and shipping problem whose defects no one appreciates, a customs problem whose oppressiveness and fatal consequences no one cares to think about, and political problems without number whose solution is being sought in makeshifts and delays, to the incalculable loss of trade and industry in every part of the country. It is idle to close our eyes to the consequences of such a policy as this! It is worse than idle to believe that coffee and sugar will ultimately solve the difficulty in spite of incapacity and maladministration. Unless some order is infused into the banking laws of the country and the issue of currency is at once restricted, unless something is done to lighten the burdens of customs taxation, and unless something is done to break the monopolies and suspend the parasitical enterprises created by the provisional government, the bankruptcy of the country is just as sure to result in the near future as it was in Uruguay and Argentina. There is still time to change the immoral and fatal policy forced upon the country by Ruy Barbosa, but not without serious loss. But, in our opinion, it is better to incur that loss at once than to continue the Argentine experiment one single day longer.

THE recent action of the merchants of this city in petitioning Congress to modify existing orders for the collection of duties in gold by the substitution of provisions for the collection of half of those duties in currency and the other half in the currency equivalent of gold, is certainly entitled to a respectful and serious hearing. When some three hundred odd of the most influential and respected business men of a city unite in such a recommendation, it must certainly command respect. While we are not entirely in accord with the scheme proposed, we certainly sympathize with every movement and with every measure which aim to reduce the burdens weighing upon the people. These burdens

have already become very heavy and are daily becoming heavier. The costs of living are abnormally high and the resources of the masses, who are without means and are largely dependent upon heavily taxed imports, are totally inadequate to meet them. It must be remembered that fully three-fourths of the population of Brazil are non-producers and that the country is still without those industrial and productive resources which enable a people to stand heavy taxation. Considering that the people are very largely fed and clothed with imported articles, and that every change in the rate of duty is immediately apparent in the price charged for these articles, and considering also that the wages and productive industries of the people are not sufficient to permit so large an increase in the costs of articles necessary for their sustenance and comfort, it must be seen that the duties now collected have become a very serious burden. These duties were oppressively high even when exchange was at par, and nothing but the mildness of this climate prevented universal suffering among those who had only a meagre rate of wages with which to meet the most ordinary needs of life. Considering now that the collection of these duties in gold at the exchange of to-day means an increase of about eighty-five per cent in the duties collected at the custom-house, that rents and the price of domestic products have increased from fifty to one hundred per cent, and that wages have increased perhaps not more than twenty-five per cent on an average, and we have a situation which is not only difficult, but which is full of peril. In view of these facts, which are patent to every observer, we are not inclined to split hairs, nor to oppose any measure which promises relief. In our opinion the government is entirely within its right in requiring customs duties to be paid in gold, but this right certainly does not imply so calamitous a result as that which now threatens the Brazilian people. In our opinion the scheme proposed will also render commercial calculations unnecessarily complicated and troublesome. If the payment of duties at a fixed rate of exchange, irrespective of the market rate on gold, is not considered satisfactory, then perhaps a decrease in the tariff schedule to counterbalance the increased cost of gold, would accomplish the same result in a better way. In all events something must be done, or the government will soon be called upon to face a crisis which will not be very easily solved. Wasting the public revenue on useless military display, on pensions, subsidies, guarantees and profitless salaries, is no excuse for an expenditure which renders this increased taxation necessary, and the people will one day make that fact felt.

WE desire to again call the attention of the minister of finance to the necessity of immediate action in the matter of providing more and better facilities for the loading and discharge of vessels in this port and at Santos. The losses to shipowners and merchants have been very heavy in both ports, and it is unwise and highly unjust to let the evil continue. If the cause is to be found in the lack of warehouses, then let us have more of them at once; or if in a lack of lighters, then let every facility be given for the employment of a greater number of them. To keep a vessel in port three and four months waiting for an opportunity to discharge is a gross injustice. It must be remembered that the volume of trade in both of these ports has rapidly and largely increased within the past two years, and that new and better facilities for handling merchandise are absolutely necessary. Old methods being insufficient, new ones must be provided. It should be gratifying to the government to be called upon to take action in such a matter, for it implies an increase in the volume of trade from which the treasury will receive a largely increased revenue. From all accounts the situation in Santos is almost disheartening, for it is not only most difficult to procure lighters, but the arrangements for weighing and handling goods in the custom-house will not permit a rapid discharge. Here in Rio not only is there a scarcity of lighters, but a lack of warehouse space, an indisposition to dispatch goods so heavily taxed that loss is sure to result, and a badly disciplined laboring force which manages somehow to handle a very small quantity of merchandise in the very few hours of daily labor. Add to this the worst than defective methods of shipping coffee and the conges-

ted condition of the Saude district, through which the coffee must pass, and we have more than reasons enough for immediate action on the part of the minister. Under existing conditions it is impossible to ship as much coffee in a day as was done a few years ago, and the average daily shipment is being steadily decreased because of the impossibility of transporting the coffee through this one overcrowded street. The measure of relief here suggested is the establishment of other shipping points, so that the hourly "blocks" in the Rua da Saude may be avoided. Both shippers and officials should not permit the present cool season to pass without providing a remedy for this, for it must be apparent to all that the difficulties will be again largely increased when the next hot season comes. More shipping points for coffee and either piers or more lighters, with efficient labor, for imports are urgently required, for the present trade of this port can not do without them.

SANTOS ATHLETIC CLUB.

BASE BALL.

The first game of base ball was played on August 16th between Messrs. Moulins' and Whitt's nines. The game was called at the end of the sixth innings, the former winning easily. We understand a game is being arranged between "England" and the "U.S. of America" nines. The following is the

SCORE.

Moulins' nine	Whitt's nine
W. Anderson, c.....	E. Wyatt, c.....
W. Moulins, p.....	W. T. Order, p.....
E. Kirby, ss.....	H. Esdly, s.....
F. Gepp, 1st b.....	P. S. Barber, 1st b.....
H. Russell, 2nd b.....	C. Demarest, 2nd b.....
C. W. Young, 3rd b.....	E. M. Sanderson, 3rd b.....
H. Horn, 1st f.....	A. Sell, 1st f.....
C. Lloyd, 2nd f.....	H. P. Caley, 2nd f.....
A. Dewar, 3rd f.....	H. Heyland, 3rd f.....
Total runs.....	40

SCORE BY INNINGS.

Moulins' nine.....	12	7	4	3	8	6—40
Whitt's nine.....	2	0	2	0	7	4—24
Home runs—Young, 1; Russell, 1; Wyatt, 1.						
Umpire—A. F. Lee.						

From the *Jornal do Commercio*, 23rd Aug.

THE BANKS.

The examination which the minister of finance desires to have made into the accounts of the banks that receive favors from the tax-payers, will be illusory unless steps be taken to have it executed by competent and independent experts; and unless there is demanded from these a categorical reply to certain questions, the solution of which greatly interests the public.

It is urgent to learn exactly how the payments of capital (*contras*) of these institutions are comprised, if there were real payments in cash, or merely "cross-currency," or any other sleight of hand.

It is urgent that we learn what has been decided relative to shares forfeited under the statutes, and whether many of these are not the property of the directors themselves.

It is urgent, in view of fictitious balance-sheets, showing fictitious profits and fictitious reserves, that it be clearly liquidated as to what these reserves consist of, whether they are anything more than items in the accounts.

It is urgent to know upon what basis advances have been made upon shares pledged; whether upon their value in January, or on that in July; if such shares are fully paid, or in lack of this who is to meet further calls, in case the respective companies (as will necessarily happen to many) must suspend operations and go into liquidation, leaving debts behind them.

It is urgent to know the composition of the item "Titles owned by the banks"; whether these were acquired by purchase or by subscription; of what companies they are, and whether these are not "squabs" (*filhoes*) of the holders themselves; and the extent of the responsibility for future calls.

It is urgent to know how deposits are constituted; whether they are bona-fide deposits, or balances of credits opened against the pledge of "signal" securities, valueless in the market, and if such deposits are at fixed dates, or otherwise.

Finally it is urgent to learn to what extent each director, or employee, of the banks assisted by the state is indebted to his bank with guarantee, or without it.

This is most important, for rumors are current that the directors alone of one bank owe to it, without guarantee, thousands of *contos de reis*.

All these points cannot have escaped the perspicacity of Barão de Lucena, for they are suggested to any expert auditor. What remains is to have the examination made by incorruptible persons. We need to be on the watch.

RIVER PLATE ITEMS.

—Gold was quoted at \$19.90, or 395, in Buenos Aires yesterday.

—Did the officers of the *Agua* insult those of the *Amante* Brown, or did they not? This question bids fair to become as famous as "Who struck Billy Paterson?"

—There was no news from Chili yesterday of any importance. The telegraph line is still closed. It is said that Balmaceda is having the roads into the mountains explored, evidently to secure a safe retreat. A New York telegram, however, says that news have been received of a three days battle near Valparaiso, which was being stubbornly contested on both sides.

—A Buenos Aires telegram of yesterday says that a robbery of \$100,000 had been discovered in the London and River Plate Bank of that city, and that two employees had been placed under arrest.

—During May, June, and July 3,719 persons were vaccinated by the municipal doctors, 19,530 tubes of vaccine were distributed and 5,738 disinfectants carried out. The cases registered of small-pox were: May 335, June 266, July 225, total 823. Deaths from small-pox: May 62, June 46, July 36, total 145. During the same months there were registered 84 cases and 41 deaths from diphtheria. —*Montevideo Times*, August 9th.

—The amount paid to the contractors of the Buenos Aires Port Works to 29th May last was \$10,797,171 gold, and certificates had been given for a further sum of \$6,402,210 gold. The total cost of the works to that time had been \$17,199,381, of which \$3,893,122 was for works not originally contemplated. The estimated amount required for completing the works is \$16,488,450, besides the commission of Mr. Malero of 7½ %.

—A Buenos Aires telegram of the 20th announced an expedition of the revolutionists in Chile, whose destination was stated to be some place not far from Valparaiso. On the 22nd another telegram announced that 15,000 men had been landed at a point north of Valparaiso and were marching upon Quillota, a town between that city and Santiago. The same telegram says that the railway line had been cut.

—The arrival in Buenos Aires of a small installment of Baron Hirsch's Hebrew colonists has already set malicious fanatics to work exclaiming against Jewish immigration, although the hundreds of them can find little to say in disfavor of the specimens already arrived. Indeed, judging from even prejudicial accounts, they seem a decided improvement on the average Neapolitan or Gallego immigrant. —*Montevideo Times*, August 12th.

—The foreign trade of Uruguay in 1890 was divided as follows:

	Imports.	Exports.
England.....	\$8,774,378	\$3,940,347
France.....	5,099,436	6,120,695
Germany.....	2,809,315	1,019,575
Argentina.....	2,643,328	2,559,740
Italy.....	2,628,663	358,646
Brazil.....	2,472,786	3,278,774
U. States.....	2,444,956	2,034,217
Spain.....	274,181	24,666
Belgium.....	169,667	349,624
Chile.....	278,410	353,206
Unspecified.	1,027,504	5,405,322

ICuba, Paraguay, Holland, Portugal, the Canaries, Russia, Sweden, Norway, and a few other countries have a very limited trade with Uruguay, being in each case under 200,000\$ a year.

LEGISLATIVE NOTES

AUGUST 15.—*Senate*.—Senator Pinheiro Gueles withdrew his motion for declining to accept the congratulations of the president of the Matin Grosso legislature. When Senator Americo Lobo was speaking against the proposed fresh meat monopoly, Senator Wandlenkirk remarked that the president of the municipal council is allowed to do whatever he pleases and that this will continue until the people of Rio de Janeiro rise and demand their rights. Senators Amaro Cavalcanti and Ubaldo do Amaral defended the bill for limiting the powers of the governors of unorganized states. Senator Elyseu Martins opposed it and moved that it be sent back to the committee. The bill, he says, is illogical, absurd, unconstitutional, and contrary to parliamentary usage, and is an attempt on the part of the legislative branch of the government to usurp the functions of the executive. Senator Americo Lobo said he did not think the bill would accomplish the purpose for which it is intended. *Chamber of Deputies*.—Deputy Bellarmino de Mendonça introduced a bill for revising the promotions made in the army since November 15, 1889. Deputy Guimarães Natal criticized the communication received from the minister of the interior in regard to affairs in Goyaz, a communication which he considers evasive and unworthy of a minister. Deputy Gonçalves Chaves defended the report on the committee on legislation in favor of rejecting the bill for annulling the 2nd part of Art. 21 of the constitution of Santa Catharina. He warned congress against the tendency now displayed in the two houses towards establishing the omnipotence of the federal congress. Deputies of the states of their sovereignty, he said, and the new institutions of the country will crumble into dust. Deputy Amalhinha opposed the report and defended the bill. The bill, he said, is intended to defend the principle of liberty of conscience, and the right of congress to vote it is derived from Art. 35 of the constitution.

AUGUST 17.—*Senate*.—The joint committee reported a bill for defining the crimes that subject the President of the republic to impeachment. Senator Amaro Cavalcanti introduced a bill on banks of issue. The Senate then went into secret session for executive business. *Chamber of Deputies*.—Deputy Gonçalves Chaves introduced a bill appropriating 100,000\$ for improving the port of Amaral, 100,000\$ for building a custom-house at Paraty, 300,000\$ for the relief of sufferers from the drought in Piahy and 50,000\$ for constructing a building for the official residence of the governor of this state. A petition was received from the Empresa das Obras Publicas da Estada da Bahia asking for a guarantee of 6 % interest on capital to be employed in building a railway from Timbo to Itacanga. Out of respect for the memory of the late Deputy Ernesto de Oliveira the Chamber then adjourned to the following day.

AUGUST 18.—*Senate*.—Senator Pinheiro Gueles offered a resolution protesting against the retention of the present governor of Mato Grosso at the head of the administration of that state. This resolution, being opposed by Senators Americo Lobo and Elyseu Martins, was withdrawn by its author. Senator Quintino Bocayuva spoke in favor of the bill limiting the powers of unorganized states, claiming that congress has a right to interfere in the affairs not only of unorganized

states but even of those that are organized whenever in such states republican institutions are endangered, as is now the case in Goyaz. After a speech from Senator Generoso Marques, who stated he was not convinced by the arguments in favor of the bill, it was put to vote and passed in 2nd discussion. *Chamber of Deputies*.—Deputies Vianna and Henrique de Carvalho severely criticized the conduct of the president of the municipal council of Rio de Janeiro, who, they think, should not be retained in his office. Deputy Natal Guimarães returned to the subject of affairs at Goyaz, which, he says, are in a desperate state and which, if not remedied, will force the people of that state into revolution. Deputy Marcano de Magalhães introduced two bills relating to army organization. The 1st delegation introduced a bill in the survey of telegraph routes between the capital of the state and other towns. Deputy Barbosa Lima and others introduced a bill on public cemeteries. The bill for the organization of the federal district was voted in 1st discussion. The resolution for changing the term of office of the officers of the house was rejected. All the officers of the house were re-elected except the vice-president, Oliveira Pinto, who was succeeded by Deputy João Lopes, the vote being 81 for the latter and 60 for the former.

AUGUST 19.—*Senate*.—Senator Americo Lobo moved to ask for information from the government in regard to the collection of taxes on the products of Minas Geraes at Caravellas, and also in regard to the construction of a railway from Ouro Preto to Pecanha and the supervision of the Companhia Geral. Senator F. Machado introduced a bill for raising the post-office of Minas Geraes to the 2nd class. Senator José Hygino pointed out defects in the bill limiting the powers of governors of unorganized states and offered amendments. Senator Aquilino do Amaral claimed that President Deodoro had broken solemn promises that he made in regard to affairs in Mato Grosso. If Senator Joaquim Martinho represents that state, this is due to his influence, but to the pressure of Gen. Deodoro, whose age and fear of death makes him subservient to all the caprices of his attending physician. Grants have been made to Senator Martinho, he said, in the value of thousands of dollars, and if he fails to prove all he asserts he will resign his seat in the Senate, and he challenges Senator Martinho to follow his example. *Chamber of Deputies*.—The 1st secretary complained that a telegram of condolence addressed in the name of the Chamber to the widow of the late Deputy Ernesto de Oliveira had been returned from the telegraph office with the following words written in pencil:—"In view of the regulations and orders in force, this telegram cannot be accepted as official." Deputy Gonçalves e Lamy moved that the fact be officially communicated to the minister of post-offices and telegraphs. Deputy Pontes de Miranda, amid constant interruptions, defended Arany Góes, acting-governor of Alagoas. Deputy Oliveira Pinto spoke in regard to the sum of 1,425,000\$ due from the general government to the state of Rio de Janeiro on account of the latter's expenditures with the Central railway. Deputy Caetano de Albuquerque moved that the government be asked for copies of the telegram sent to the governor of Mato Grosso in regard to the election held on Jan. 3rd. Deputy Bellarmino de Mendonça defended his bill for restoring Visconde de Maracajá and Barão do Lalarão to active service. Deputy Aristides Lobo opposed the bill, which, he thinks, will encourage the hopes of monarchists. Deputy Badurá spoke in favor of rejecting the bill to annul the provisions in the Santa Catharina constitution in regard to marriage. He contended that congress has no right to interfere in this matter. Deputy Moaiz Freire spoke in favor of the bill and Deputy Aristides Maia against it. Deputy Amalhinha defended the bill.

AUGUST 20.—*Senate*.—Senator Wandlenkirk introduced a bill for reorganizing the corps of naval engineers. The bill for limiting the powers of governors of unorganized states was passed in 3rd discussion with the amendments of Senator José Hygino. The bill defining crimes of the President of the republic subject to impeachment was voted in 2nd discussion. *Chamber of Deputies*.—Deputy Thomaz Delfino presented a petition of residents on the island of Paqueta opposing annexation to the state of Rio de Janeiro. Deputy Elyseu Lobo introduced bills appropriating 200,000\$ for survey of a telegraph route in Paraty and 1,200,000\$ for relief of sufferers from the drought in Paraty, Rio Grande do Norte and Ceará. Deputy Antônio de Paula and others introduced a bill defining the competence of the general government and that of the states in regard to internal improvements. Deputy França Carvalho spoke against the grant of a railway for connecting the Rio de Onoro road with the station of Comercio. Deputy Barbosa Lima wished to know why the government in appointing Visconde de Pelotas councillor of war does not call him by his title, while it retains the titles of Barão de Lucena and Barão do Rio Apa. Deputy Demetrio Ribeiro moved that a special committee of five members be appointed to inquire into the experience of altering the present contracts with the banks of issue and of adopting other measures in relation to the currency. Deputies Bercelli, Lovagildo Figueiras and Barbosa Lobo spoke on the question of granting permission for bringing a suit for slander against Deputy Martinho Rodrigues. Deputy Adolpho Gordo spoke against the bill for annulling a part of the constitution of Santa Catharina.

AUGUST 21.—*Senate*.—Senator Americo Lobo introduced a bill for collecting import duties half in gold and half in currency. The president made some remarks on the importance of not wasting time. The bill on the appointment of judges was voted in 1st discussion; also the bill in regard to the appointment of civil and military officers. The bill on coast trade was passed in 2nd discussion and the bill defining the crimes for which the President of the republic may be impeached was passed in 3rd discussion. A bill on elections was reported from the joint committee of the two houses. A communication was received from the minister of agriculture enclosing a statement of the director of the Central railway in regard to the cause of the irregularities in the passenger and freight service of the road. The director says that

the road requires more rolling-stock, more warehouses and more room for switches at the city station. He estimates at 4,000,000\$ the cost of putting the road into a proper condition for the freight and passenger service. He thinks, however, that the service will improve after the 1st of October. *Chamber of Deputies*.—Deputy Arthur Rios inquired what had been done in regard to removal to a more commodious building. The president stated that the minister of the interior had ordered the removal of the board of health from the old building of the Chamber of Deputies. An engineer had examined the building and estimated the cost of repairs at 60,000\$. The building could be made ready in 35 days. Deputy Arthur Rios said the explanations of the chair were not satisfactory. If the Chamber waited for the action of the department of the interior, it might make up its mind to stay where it is. Deputy Nila Paganha:—"You are attacking Minister Arape." Deputy Arthur Rios:—"I would attack the devil himself to get out of this place." Deputy Serzelello:—"I have observed that you have a special grudge against this minister. And yet he is my favorite." The most inoffensive of all the ministers." The present building, says Deputy Arthur Rios, is entirely unsuited for the purpose. The acoustic arrangements are so bad that half the time the deputies vote without knowing what they are voting for. And yet the government has squandered in it a great deal of money. A Deputy:—"1,900,000\$." Another Deputy:—"Make it a round 1,000,000\$." Deputy Martinho Rodrigues said that from a feeling of decency he had absented himself from the previous day in order that, without consulting him in his presence, the Chamber might decide whether permission should be granted to bring a suit against him for slander. He learned that in his absence he had been violently attacked. He would wait for the publication of the speech attacking him, and then, without sullying himself with foul invective, he would give it the proper answer. The bill prohibiting the use of titles and decorations was carried by 71 votes to 53. The motion of Deputy Demetrio Kitcher for the appointment of a special committee to inquire into the expediency of altering the present circulating medium and other questions relating to the currency was passed, and the author of the motion and Deputies Mayrink, Figueiredo, Serzelello, and Leopoldo de Balhões were appointed on the committee. Committees were also appointed to inquire into the following subjects:—Refinements and pensions; government grants; public lands. Deputy Serzelello insisted on his motion in regard to Decree No. 438 of June 11. This decree is in force in all the states except Pará, whose governor had had the courage to resist. This shows that the general government will yield if the states content vigorously for their rights. In the state of Rio de Janeiro double taxes are collected, both the state and general government claiming the right to collect them.

PROVINCIAL NOTES

—An epidemic of influenza is raging in Santa Catharina.

—Municipal elections are to be held in various cities of Santa Catharina on the 30th inst.

—A new directory of the Associação Commercial of Pernambuco was elected on the 22nd inst.

—The new turbine of the Pinacal cotton factory is the largest in the state of S. Paulo.

—A telegram from Porto Alegre, of the 21st, says that Visconde de Pelotas accepts the office of councillor of war.

—Two sons of Deputy Martinho Prado have left S. Paulo for the United States, where they intend to finish their studies.

—In S. João Nepomuceno, Minas Geraes, a man became insane on being informed of the death of Dr. Silva Jardim.

—A telegram from Porto Alegre, published in the *Tempo* of the 19th, contradicts the report of a projected revolution in that state.

—The governor of Goyaz telegraphs that the majority of the people of the state take his part against the state legislature.

—The municipal council of S. Paulo has appointed a committee to investigate the question of supplying the city with fresh meat.

—On the 10th instant four prisoners made their escape from the jail at S. José d'Alema, Paratyba, but two were afterwards captured.

—In the seven months ending July 31st the state of Minas Geraes received 10,935 immigrants, of whom only 4,107 remained in the state.

—At a place called Paraná de Baixo, in Pará, a young man of 19 killed his sister, a girl of 15, with a razor, while she was asleep and afterwards shot himself.

—The president of Amazonas has telegraphed to Barão de Lucena contradicting the report of an invasion of Brazilian territory by troops from Venezuela.

—The *Mercantil* of S. Paulo says that 500,000 cuttings of grape-vines have been ordered in foreign countries for a vineyard that is to be established near Jacarehy.

—News from Ceará indicates that the senatorial election has been carried by the candidates of the factions under the lead of Martinho Rodrigues and Councillor Rodrigues Junior.

—It was proposed in the Bahia legislature on the 24th to suspend the subsidy paid to the Italian steamship line until the tax had been paid on its transfer to the Lloyd Brasileiro.

—On the island of Santo Amaro, S. Paulo, there is to be erected a wooden hotel, which will be imported ready-made from the United States and which will have accommodation for 160 persons. Fifty more ready-made houses have also been ordered. Ready-made houses would have been a good investment for Rio de Janeiro also.

—A mutiny is reported among colonists at Crissiana, Santa Catharina, and a force of 30 soldiers has been sent there to restore order. It is said the force will be stationed at Tubarão and Laguna.

—In Maranhão, on the 21st inst., the priest Silvino Silva was tried for abuse of liberty of the press. The lawyers' speeches lasted four hours and the accused was acquitted amid the applause of the spectators.

—The *Correio Paulistano* says that a large number of counterfeit nickel coins of 100 and 200 reals are circulating in S. Paulo. They are so well executed that it is very difficult to distinguish them from genuine coins.

—The extension of the Mogiana railway is causing a considerable advance in the price of lands along the line. For plantations valued a few years ago at 6,000\$ and 8,000\$ the owners are now asking 20,000\$ and 30,000\$.

—A project was presented in the S. Paulo legislature on the 24th authorizing the government to expend 400,000\$ in the construction of twenty migrant *hospedarias*—one at Cordeiros and the other at Ribeirão Preto.

—The Centro Commercial of São Anna do Livramento has resolved to call a convention to meet on the 30th of next November for the purpose of discussing the question of frontier trade in the state of Rio Grande do Sul.

—According to a telegram read in the Chamber yesterday, there are 20 vessels in the port of Santos which have been waiting since February for an opportunity to discharge cargo. The loss and inconvenience arising from these delays are severely felt throughout the whole state.

—A detachment of soldiers sent some time since to assist the chief of police in an investigation in the distant town of Curitiba, Santa Catharina, returned to Desterro on the 20th inst. in a terribly exhausted condition. A part of the force was left in Curitiba, five men dropped off in Lagoa unable to continue the journey, and the remainder finished the expedition ragged and faint.

—A letter of July 30th, from Itapira, S. Paulo, says that in that locality on the 27th there was a violent wind and hail-storm, which did much damage. Large trees were torn up by the roots, others were stripped of their foliage and hundreds of birds were killed. The hail-stones are said to have been larger than hen's eggs (which is the usual size in wonderful hail-storms), some of them being, it is stated, as large as oranges. Fortunately the storm lasted only five minutes. It remains to be added that the hail-legend story-teller was not killed.

COFFEE NOTES

—In Goyaz coffee is selling at 20\$ per arroba.

—The municipal council of S. Carlos do Pinhal, S. Paulo, has voted a tax of 30 reis per 15 kilos on coffee. The product of this tax is to be expended with the establishment and maintenance of an immigration depot.

RAILROAD NOTES

—The minister of agriculture has ordered the supervising engineer to report on the causes of the delay in the transportation and delivery of freight on the Leopoldina railway.

—The Botanical Garden tram company is now engaged in laying a return line through Ruas S. José and Ajuda, which, it is expected, will be ready for service in a very few days.

—A telegram from S. Paulo yesterday says that the net receipts of the Paulista line in the five months ending May 31st amounted to 1,344,547\$821, against 886,594\$187 in the same period of last year.

—It would be interesting to know what has become of the rolling-stock of the Central railway. A much larger traffic has been recently managed by this line, and it is inexplicable why this cannot now be done. There is a strong suspicion that the fault lies with the administration and not with the lack of rolling-stock, warehouses and switches.

—Tickets for the express trains on the Central railway are now sold on the day before the departure of the trains. Luggage can be shipped at the same time. This is an improvement deserving recognition. Now let us have a ticket office at some convenient point in the city so that we can get our tickets without the necessity of making a trip up to the Campo São Anna, and we shall again be made grateful.

—The length of the Bahia railway, belonging to an English company, is 133k. 340m.; that of the extension, belonging to the government, from Alagoas to Villa Nova, is 321k. 993m.; that of the Timbo branch is 83 kilometers. The total length in operation, then, is 564k. 333m., which will be increased to 675k. 393m. as soon as the extension from Villa Nova to Jazeiro, now in construction, is completed. The extension from Alagoas to Villa Nova is operated at a loss, the receipts being 226,546\$980 in 1890 and 214,366\$840 in 1889 against expenses of 584,950\$305 in 1890 and 494,352\$760 in 1889.

LOCAL NOTES

—Councillor Mayrink has bought building No. 49 Rua do Quitanda, paying 135,000\$.

—The contract for building a new market on Praia de D. Manoel was signed on the 20th.

—On the 18th the Supreme Court refused to grant a writ of habeas corpus in favor of the directors of the Banco Caucionador e Mercantil, against whom warrants had been issued.

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